REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, and 19 have been amended. No new claims have been added. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Abstract

The Examiner reminded Applicants of the proper language and format for an abstract of the Disclosure, i.e., within the range of 50 to 150 words. Applicants have amended the Abstract to be less than 150 words.

Informality Objections to Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 because of the following informalities: "comprising the step of.", and the Examiner required appropriate correction. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 making appropriate corrections so that it now reads: comprising the step of:". Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 2, 3, 11, and 12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as

allegedly being anticipated by *Helgeson et al.*, U.S. patent 6,643,652. Applicants respectfully

traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention provides an extensible file access method for accessing a foreign

file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and

said native file system implementing different file system protocols, by

issuing a request according to the native file system protocol for data stored in the foreign

file system;

translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface,

wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system

protocol and the foreign file system protocol;

translating the intermediate file system request to the foreign file system protocol; and

returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive

to the translated request.

Helgeson et al. provides a translation of a data object from a foreign system format to a

native system format, said foreign system format and said native system format being different,

by

issuing a request from the foreign system according to a foreign system programming

interface for the data object stored in the foreign system format;

translating the data object from the foreign system format to a generic interchange format,

wherein the generic interchange format is different from both the native system format and the

foreign system format;

translating the data object from the generic interchange format to the native system

format; and

sending the translated data object in the native system format to the data processing

system in response to the foreign system request.

The present invention translates or converts from one protocol to another, or from one

programming interface to another; whereas, *Helgeson et al.* translates from one data format to

another. The present invention translates or converts a program call; whereas, *Helgeson et al.*

translates data. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and

withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27

The Examiner rejected claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over *Helgeson et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,652, in view of *Bodamer et al.*, U.S.

Patent 6,236,997. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending

therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). As

independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are nonobvious as they are not subject to 35 U.S.C. § 103

rejections, then the dependent claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27 depending from independent claims

1, 10, and 19 are nonobvious. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and

withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27.

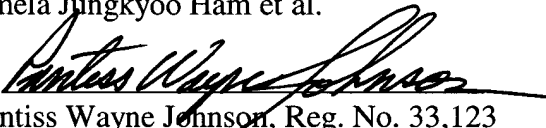
Prior Art Made of Record and Not Relied Upon

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon considered

pertinent to Applicants' disclosure, and these fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently

outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and

complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present

application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal

communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to

telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this

Response is hereby solicited.

> Respectfully submitted,
> Pamela Jungkyoo Ham et al.
>
> By: _____
> Prentiss Wayne Johnson, Reg. No. 33,123
> Attorney for Applicants
> International Business Machines Corporation
> Intellectual Property Law
> 555 Bailey Avenue, J46A/G467
> San Jose, CA 95141-9989
> Telephone: 408.463.5673

Date: March 15, 2004